

EXHIBIT A

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED AND NEW CLAIMS FOR U.S. SERIAL NO. 09/702,374

1. (Amended) A composition comprising:

(a) at least a first compound of the formula:



wherein R is optionally branched or straight chain, saturated or unsaturated C₈-C₂₀ alkyl, [and a horticulturally acceptable vehicle,] in an amount effective to prolong the freshness or the aesthetic appearance of a plant, a flower, a fruit or a plant cutting;

(b) at least a first plant hormone selected from the group consisting of an auxin, a gibberellin and a cytokinin; and

(c) a horticulturally-acceptable vehicle.

5. (Amended) The composition of claim 4, wherein said compound is N-lauroylethanolamine (NAE12:0) or N-myristoylethanolamine (NAE14:0).

13. (Amended) The composition claim 12, wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate (TWEEN-20™), monopalmitate monostearate, ethoxylated alkyl phenols and a hydrogenated oil.

15. (Amended) The composition of claim 14, wherein said buffer is selected from the group consisting of acetate, bicarbonate, citrate, succinate, malate, [TRIS, MES, HEPES, MOPS, BES, and BIS-TRIS] Tris-(hydroxymethyl)-aminomethane (TRIS); 2-(N-Morpholino)-ethanesulfonic acid (MES); N-[2-hydroxyethyl]piperazine-N'-[2-ethanesulfonic acid] (HEPES); 3-(N-Morpholino)-propanesulfonic acid (MOPS); N,N-Bis-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-aminoethanesulfonic acid (BES); and Bis-(2-hydroxyethyl)-imino-tris-(hydroxymethyl)-methane (BIS-TRIS).
23. (Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said compound is N-lauroylethanolamine (NAE12:0) or N-myristoylethanolamine (NAE14:0), and wherein said composition further comprises a lecithin [and a surfactant].
25. (Amended) The composition of claim 24, wherein said second anti-senescent component comprises: (a) a second distinct N-acylethanolamine compound selected from the group consisting of NAE10:0, NAE 11:0, NAE12:0, NAE13:0, NAE14:0, NAE15:0, NAE16:0, NAE17:0, NAE18:0, NAE19:0, NAE20:0, NAE10:1, NAE10:2, NAE10:3, NAE11:1, NAE11:2, NAE11:3, NAE12:1, NAE12:2, NAE12:3, NAE13:1, NAE13:2, NAE13:3, NAE14:1, NAE14:2, NAE14:3, NAE15:1, NAE15:2, NAE15:3, NAE16:1, NAE16:2, NAE16:3, NAE17:1, NAE17:2, NAE17:3, NAE18:1, NAE18:2, NAE18:3,

NAE19:1, NAE19:2, NAE19:3, NAE20:1, NAE20:2, and NAE20:3; or (b) an anti-senescent component selected from the group consisting of [Petalife®, Oasis®, Rogard®, Everbloom®, FloraLife®, Vita Flora, Aquaplus, Spring and Crystal Clear] PETALIFE®, OASIS®, ROGARD®, EVERBLOOM®, FLORALIFE®, VITA FLORA™, AQUAPLUS™, SPRING™, and CHRYSAL CLEAR™.

59. (New) The composition of claim 5, wherein said compound is *N*-lauroylethanolamine (NAE12:0).
60. (New) The composition claim 1, further comprising a lecithin.
61. (New) The composition claim 60, wherein said lecithin is a soy lecithin.
62. (New) The method of claim 27, comprising providing to said flower, fruit, or plant cutting a solution comprising a senescence-delaying amount of a compound of the formula:



where R is optionally branched or straight chain, saturated or unsaturated C₈-C₂₀ alkyl.

63. (New) The method of claim 27, comprising providing to said flower, fruit, or plant cutting a solution comprising a senescence-delaying amount of the composition of claim 1.
64. (New) A composition comprising: (a) at least a first compound selected from the group consisting of NAE10:0, NAE12:0, NAE14:0, NAE16:0, NAE18:0, and NAE20:0 in an amount effective to prolong the freshness or the aesthetic appearance of a plant, a flower, a fruit or a plant cutting; (b) a lecithin; and (c) a horticulturally-acceptable vehicle.
65. (New) The composition of claim 64, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of NAE10:0, NAE11:0, NAE12:0, NAE13:0, NAE14:0, NAE15:0, NAE16:0, NAE17:0, NAE18:0, NAE19:0, and NAE20:0.
66. (New) The composition of claim 65, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of NAE10:0, NAE12:0, NAE14:0, NAE16:0, and NAE18:0.

67. (New) The composition of claim 23, wherein said compound is *N*-lauroylethanolamine (NAE12:0), said lecithin is soy lecithin, and said surfactant is polyoxyethylenesorbitan monolaurate (TWEEN-20™).
68. (New) The composition of claim 1, comprising an alcohol.
69. (New) The composition of claim 68, wherein said alcohol is isopropanol.
70. (New) A composition comprising:
- (a) at least a first compound of the formula:
$$\text{RCONHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$$

wherein R is optionally branched or straight chain, saturated or unsaturated C₈-C₂₀ alkyl, in an amount effective to prolong the freshness or the aesthetic appearance of a plant, a flower, a fruit or a plant cutting;
 - (b) at least a first lecithin; and
 - (c) a horticulturally-acceptable vehicle.

71. (New) A composition comprising:

(a) at least a first compound of the formula:



wherein R is optionally branched or straight chain, saturated or unsaturated C₈-C₂₀ alkyl, in an amount effective to prolong the freshness or the aesthetic appearance of a plant, a flower, a fruit or a plant cutting;

(b) at least a first soy lecithin; and

(c) a horticulturally-acceptable vehicle comprising at least a first alcohol.

72. (New) A composition comprising: about 2 g *N*-lauroylethanolamine, about 1 g soy lecithin, and about 0.2 ml polyoxyethylenesorbitan monolaurate (TWEEN-20™) per 20 ml of isopropanol.

73. (New) A method of prolonging the appearance of a plant, flower, fruit, or plant cutting, said method comprising providing to said flower, fruit, or plant cutting a solution comprising an amount of:

- (a) a compound of the formula:



where R is optionally branched or straight chain, saturated or unsaturated C₈-C₂₀ alkyl; or

- (b) the composition of claim 1,

effective to prolong the appearance of said plant, flower, fruit, or plant cutting.

74. (New) A method of increasing the shelf life of a plant, flower, fruit, or plant cutting, said method comprising providing to said flower, fruit, or plant cutting a solution comprising an amount of:

- (a) a compound of the formula:



where R is optionally branched or straight chain, saturated or unsaturated C₈-C₂₀ alkyl; or

- (b) the composition of claim 1,

effective to increase the shelf life of said plant, flower, fruit, or plant cutting.

75. (New) The method of claim 74, comprising providing to said flower, fruit, or plant cutting a solution comprising an amount of a compound of the formula:



where R is optionally branched or straight chain, saturated or unsaturated C₈-C₂₀ alkyl, effective to increase the shelf life of said plant, flower, fruit, or plant cutting.

76. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein said compound is *N*-lauroylethanolamine (NAE12:0) or *N*-myristoylethanolamine (NAE14:0).

77. (New) A method of extending the freshness or aesthetic appearance of cut flowers, ornamental cut trees, or a plant cutting, said method comprising: providing to said cut flowers, said ornamental cut trees, or said plant cutting, a solution comprising a biologically-effective amount of:

- (a) a compound of the formula:



where R is optionally branched or straight chain, saturated or unsaturated C₈-C₂₀ alkyl; or

- (b) the composition of claim 1,

for a time effective to extend the freshness of aesthetic appearance of said cut flowers, said ornamental cut trees, or said plant cutting.

78. (New) The method of claim 77, comprising providing to said cut flowers, said ornamental cut trees, or said plant cutting, a solution comprising a biologically-effective amount of a compound of the formula:



where R is optionally branched or straight chain, saturated or unsaturated C₈-C₂₀ alkyl, for a time effective to extend the freshness of aesthetic appearance of said cut flowers, said ornamental cut trees, or said plant cutting.

79. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein said compound is *N*-lauroylethanolamine (NAE12:0) or *N*-myristoylethanolamine (NAE14:0).

80. (New) A method of extending the vase life of a cut flower or plant cutting, said method comprising: providing to said cut flower or plant cutting a solution comprising an effective amount of:

(a) a compound of the formula:



where R is optionally branched or straight chain, saturated or unsaturated C₈-C₂₀ alkyl; or

(b) the composition of claim 1,

for a time necessary to extend the vase life of said cut flower or said plant cutting.

81. (New) The method of claim 80, comprising: providing to said cut flower or plant cutting a solution comprising an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



where R is optionally branched or straight chain, saturated or unsaturated C₈-C₂₀ alkyl, for a time necessary to extend the vase life of said cut flower or said plant cutting.

82. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein said compound is *N*-lauroylethanolamine (NAE12:0) or *N*-myristoylethanolamine (NAE14:0).